



CARTER COURIER

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LETTER FROM THE CONGRESSMAN

Dear Friends,

In this week's Courier you will find information on a number of issues that my House colleagues and I tackled last week, including, funding our national defense needs; preventing waste and abuse in the federal government; and helping eliminate the death tax for some individuals. You will also find pictures from a special naturalization ceremony that took place at Fort Hood Friday.

This week, the House is once again working on common sense energy solutions as we consider the Deep Ocean Energy Resources (DOER) Act. I am a cosponsor of this bill that establishes a common sense, flexible framework that will help free America from its dependence on foreign sources of energy and empower states to protect their coastlines at the same time.

I also support a measure being considered this week that will protect the flying of the American flag on private property.

I discussed a number of issues with VA Secretary Nichols during a hearing of the Military Quality of Life Appropriations Subcommittee. I urged him to take swift steps to ensure that the identity of our veterans is protected. I also applauded the VA's decision to provide one year of free credit monitoring to people whose sensitive personal information may have been stolen in the incident. Please call 1-800-333-4636 or visit www.firstgov.gov for more information.

Until next week,

PREVENTING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

The federal government is too large and we spend too much of your hard-earned tax dollars. However, some real progress has been made. Congress has already considered several measures that are addressing waste, fraud, and abuse. And I will continue to fight to make the federal government more fiscally conservative and responsible.

In fact, last week the House passed a line-item veto proposal that will make Congress more accountable for the spending it proposes, will help eliminate worthless projects, and will protect taxpayer dollars with spending restraint. The Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 2006 will allow the President 45 days to propose the veto of up to 5 earmarks in any appropriations bill. It then requires Congress to act on the president's proposed rescissions by requiring an up-or-down vote on the complete list in a timely manner. It would also allow for real savings, since the bill requires all savings to be used for deficit reduction efforts. Further, this bill will act as a strong deterrent to the addition of questionable projects in the first place, while allowing Members to defend legitimate projects if they are targeted by the President. I am proud that I voted for this legislation that should prove to be a vital tool in the fight against wasteful spending.

As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am in a position to directly affect the way your tax dollars are

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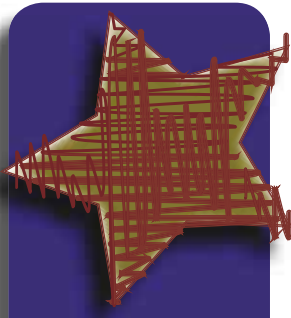
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spent. And I am committed to funding valuable projects that enhance the needs of communities, not wasteful pork programs. This year, we have passed 8 of the 11 Fiscal Year 2007 appropriations bills, and we have successfully held the line on spending and eliminated wasteful programs. In addition, we have defeated proposals that would have added \$34.5 billion in new spending above and beyond the levels included in these bills.

I also supported this year's fiscally conservative Budget. The Fiscal Year 2007 budget holds the line on discretionary spending and maintains President Bush's spending cap of \$873 billion. To help reduce the deficit, the bill would save \$6.8 billion in mandatory spending by highlighting common sense reforms that make federal programs more effective and efficient on behalf of American taxpayers. This is the second year in a row that we have made progress in eliminating waste and inefficiencies in federal spending.

We also approved important reforms that bring more sunshine and more accountability to the earmark process in order to help Congress determine worthy projects from worthless pork through the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act.

Another way we are eliminating fraud and abuse is through a program based out of Tarleton State University. This program uses data analysis to locate cases of fraud and abuse in the Federal Crop Insurance Program. The Tarleton State program has already saved the American taxpayers \$450 million since its inception in 2000. I am pleased to have secured funding in the Fiscal Year 2007 Agriculture Appropriations bill that will allow Tarleton State University to continue one of the most effective oversight programs in the federal government.

The Office of Management and Budget reports that over 25 percent of all federal programs either do not work or cannot show any evidence that they do, while another 28 percent of programs receive "adequate" ratings, indicating problems. Considering this troubling data, we are considering the future possibilities for this program in finding fraud and abuse in other government programs.

I will continue to introduce and support initiatives that rein in wasteful spending, exercise fiscal restraint, and ensure that Congress is spending taxpayer dollars wisely.

CARTER SUPPORTS HOUSE-PASSED DEFENSE SPENDING BILL

Last week I voted in favor of a bill that will provide funding for critical defense priorities, including a 2.2 percent military pay raise and enhanced force protection gear. H.R. 5631, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007 also funds operation and maintenance, research and development, and emergency wartime appropriation needs.

This fiscally responsible bill contains more than \$1 billion less in earmarks than last year's Defense Appropriations bill and \$2.7 billion less than last year's conference report.

This bill includes funding that I helped secure for a number of projects that benefit the 31st District.

Funding our defense priorities is essential to keeping our soldiers protected and our nation secure. This bill ensures that our service men and women have the resources needed to successfully fight the global war on terror and defend America. I am proud to represent the brave men and women stationed at Fort Hood, and will continue to see that our troops receive the support they need to carry out their mission.

CARTER SUPPORTS DEATH TAX RELIEF BILL

The House passed, and I voted in favor of, a bill that will provide permanent estate tax and gift tax relief for millions of Americans. H.R. 5638, the Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act, which will take effect in 2010, eliminates the death tax for estates valued at or below \$5 million. For estates between \$5 million and \$25 million, the rate of tax will be the same as the capital gains tax rate. On estates valued at more than \$25 million, the top marginal rate of tax will be double the capital gains tax rate.

This bill will help reduce unnecessary and unjust taxation on the American people. Simply put, death should not be a taxable event. By permanently eliminating the estate tax, hard working citizens will have the ability to pass on their small farm or business to their families. Although I am still in favor of a full repeal of the death tax, this bill is an important step in the right direction.

Studies have shown that small, family-owned businesses are especially vulnerable to the Death Tax because most small-business owners have the entire value of their business in their estate. More than 70 percent of family businesses do not survive the second generation; 87 percent do not make it to the third generation.

CARTER SUPPORTS PROTECTION OF MILITARY FUNERALS

I was proud to join House colleagues in commending the Patriot Guard Riders for protecting military families from funeral protesters. This group of motorcycle riders travels throughout the country to preserve the memory of fallen service members at funerals. Last week the House approved H.Res.731, which recognizes the Patriot Guard Riders for their great efforts to protect the memory of our service members.

The Patriot Guard Riders should be commended for their dedication to honor the memory of our soldiers and protect the sanctity of funerals for military families. Their selfless acts have shielded thousands of mourning families from disgraceful and inappropriate funeral protests. I had the honor of thanking a number of these American patriots for their efforts, including their presence at a funeral in Temple earlier this year.

CONG. CARTER GIVES KEYNOTE ADDRESS DURING SPECIAL NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

I was honored to give the keynote address during a naturalization ceremony for service members at Fort Hood on Friday. It was a moving ceremony and I was pleased to participate. These soldiers have been willing to give their lives and blood for the U.S. flag and now they can say with pride that they are American citizens. I shared with those in attendance the great pride I shared with my wife when she became a citizen nearly 30 years ago. Being an American citizen is a great honor and responsibility. I again congratulate these service members for becoming citizens of the greatest nation in the world.

Below are some photos from the ceremony that I wanted to share with you.



NEW COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Congressman Carter's *staff* will hold community office hours at the following time and location. The staff will be able to meet with residents to listen to their concerns and provide assistance with regard to federal issues and federal agencies.

TUESDAY, JULY 11th

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Rockdale

Rockdale City Hall
Council Chamber Room
505 West Cameron Ave.
Rockdale, Texas

FRIDAY, JULY 14th

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

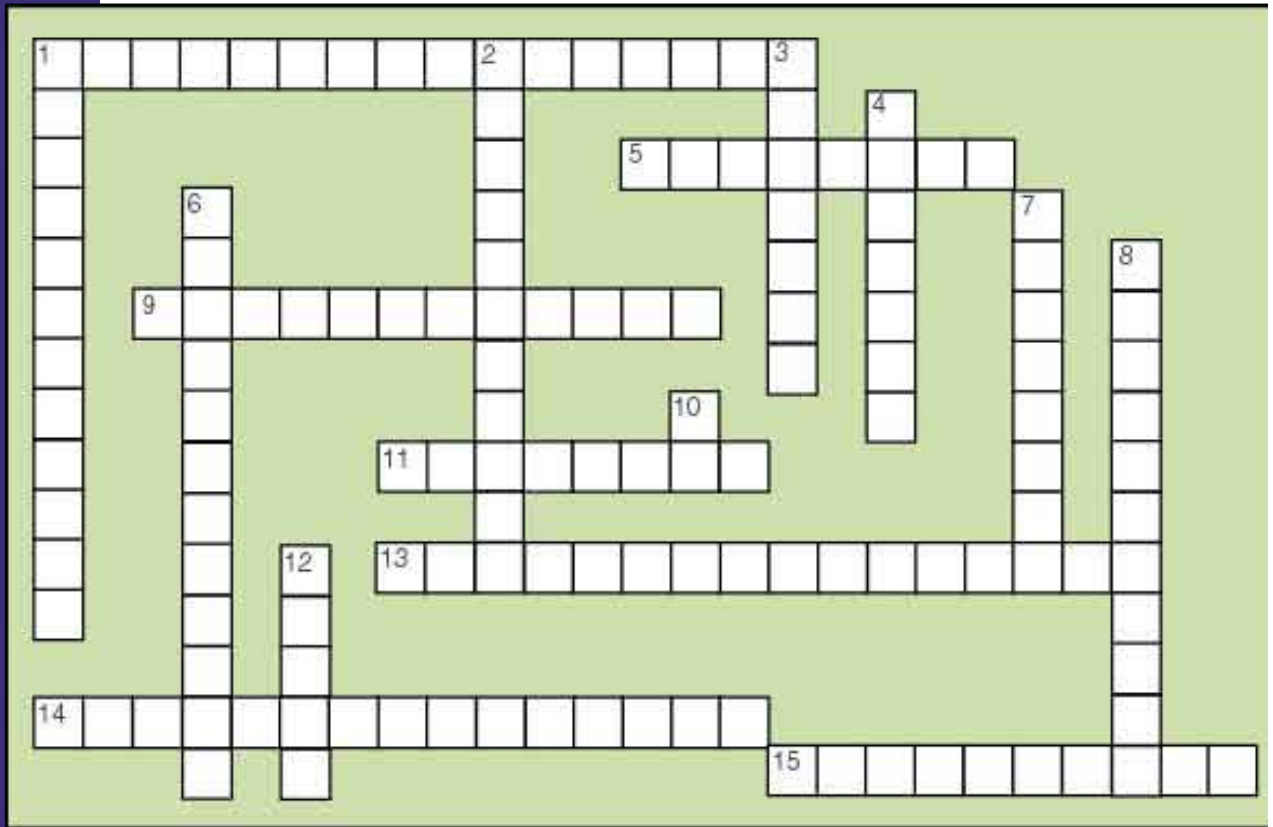
Cameron

Bea's Kitchen
101 East Main St.
Cameron, Texas



Kids' Page

CONSTITUTION CROSSWORD

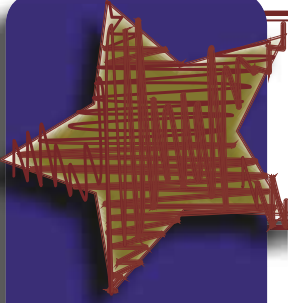


ACROSS

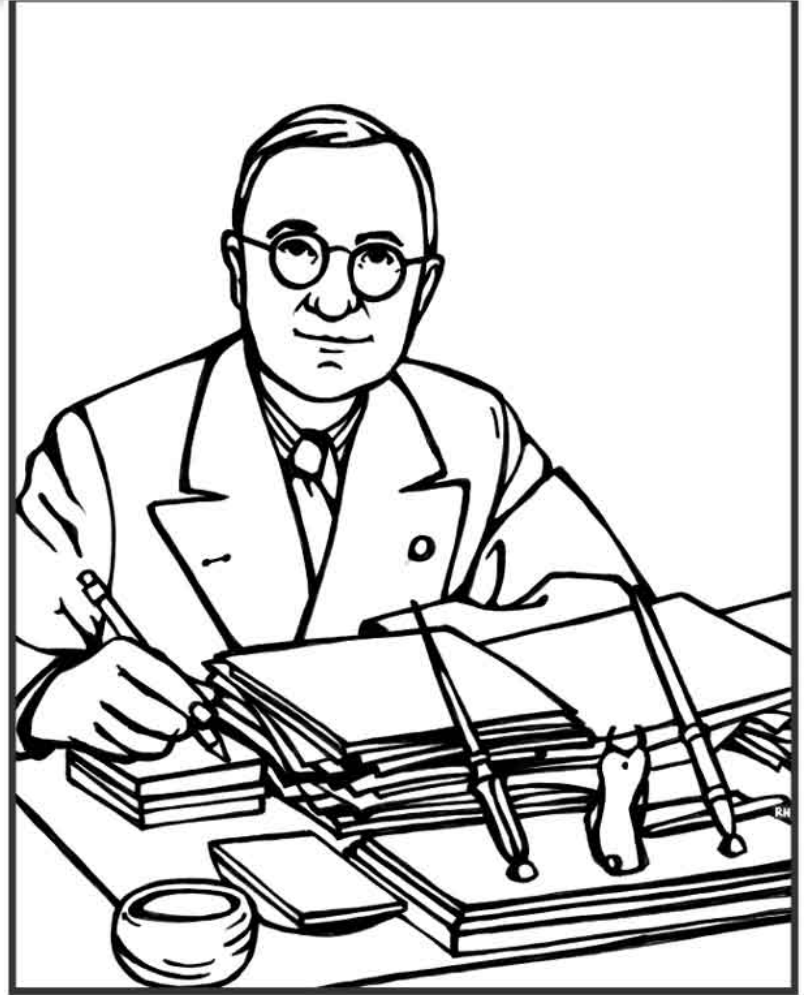
1. Place where the original Constitution can be viewed. (16 letters)
5. First state to ratify the Constitution. (8 letters)
9. Fearing tyranny from a strong central government, some states demanded this be added to the Constitution. (12 letters)
11. He is known as the "Sage of the Constitutional Convention." (8 letters)
13. These essays were written to defend and promote the ratification of the new Constitution. (16 letters)
14. Name given to the group who did not favor ratification of the Constitution. (15 letters)
15. This amendment was repealed. (10 letters)

DOWN

1. This state's signing ratified the Constitution. (12 letters)
2. State that did not send delegates to the Constitutional Convention. (11 letters)
3. The 13th Amendment abolished . (7 letters)
4. He introduced the Bill of Rights in the House of Representatives on June 8, 1789. (7 letters)
6. The Constitutional Convention met in this city. (12 letters)
7. The part of the Constitution where you find the phrase "in order to form a more perfect union." (8 letters)
8. Number of amendments to the Constitution. (11 letters)
10. Article that establishes the Constitution as the supreme law of the country. (2 letters)
12. The Nineteenth Amendment protects the voting rights of . (5 letters)



Color the President



Harry S Truman

Presidential Number: 33rd

Years he was President: 1945-1953

State Represented: Missouri

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Fact(s): He was a captain in World War I. He was Vice President for Franklin Roosevelt.

Personal

Birthday: May 8, 1884

How old would he be this year? 122

School(s) Kansas City Law School

Wife: Bess Truman

Occupation(s) before he was Presi-

dent: Soldier, bank clerk, farmer

Other way(s) he served: US Senator, Vice President

Height: 5 feet, 9 inches

Hobbies or Sports: Piano, swimming, wrestling

Life in America

How would he have traveled? Airplane, Car

How would he have communicated with his friends? Telephone, letters

U.S. Population when term began: 151,325,798

Number of stars on flag when he left office: 48